hot rolled steel and cut-to-length carbon steel plates from India to USA have been affected adversely. Imports of hot rolled steel by USA dropped by 91% in the first half of 2001 compared to the same period of 2000. It is almost non existent now. Similarly imports of cut-to-length carbon steel plates by USA from India between 1998—2000 has dropped by 98%.

Exports to developed countries

1650. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 27 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th February, 2002 and state:

(a) whether exports have received a servere setback due to terrorists attack on WTC and other places in United States on 11th September, 2001;

(b) if so, the present export position with US and other developed countries; and

(c) the steps taken to enhance exports to those countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) The synchronized global slowdown coupled with the September 11 event and its aftermath have led to lower export growth during the early months of the current financial year. However, as per the latest available data from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta, India's exports of merchandise goods have picked up and are valued at US $ 36.526 billion during April-January, 2001-2002 which is 1.56% higher than the level of US $ 35.963 billion during April-January, 2000-01. Exports, during the month of January 2002, recorded a rise of 18.18% in dollar terms as compared to the exports of January, 2001.

(b) Export position with US and other developed countries during April-October, 2001-02, are as under:—

(In US $ Million)

Countries/Regions	April-Oct. 2001-2002
US	4817
EU	5548
Japan	874

(c) Export promotion continues to be a major thrust area. Several measures to boost exports have been undertaken in order to provide competitive edge to the Indian goods in the International market. Some of the recent measures taken to promote exports include reduction in the export credit rate of both pre-shipment and post-shipment, special financial package to manufacturer exporters with an export contract of Rs. 100 crore or above for period of one year, extension of normal repatriation period from 180 days to 360 days for exports for a period of one year and upward revision of duty drawback rates on a number of product groups. The declining trend in exports experienced during the early part of the current financial year has been checked. Further, taking stock of the developments in the recent past and considering the current global economic environment, the Medium Term Export Strategy for the period 2002—2007 has been announced.

Production and export of tea

1651. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of tea produced in the country during the last three years beginning from 1997-98, year-wise;

(b) the total volume of tea exports during the above period in terms of quantity and value togetherwith its share in the global export market;